2271. [*Transferred to the 20th, December, 1985.*]

Reduction in import duty on Pig Iron

2272. SHRI CHIMANBHAI: MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has requested for reduction in import duty on pig iron which is 70 per cent of the CIF cost and hence the cost of imported iron comes to Rs. 4000 *i. e.* higher by Rs. 1000 per M. Ton as compared to local price;

(b) whether in view of the local short supply, the Gujarat state Small Scale Industries Corporation was allowed to import 25 thousand M. Ton pig iron and that imported iron contained 4 per cent phosphorus and therefore not eligible for 30 per cent customs duty reduction effected on 1st August, 1985; and

(c) whether Government propose to make fresh reduction in import duty as requested by the Gujarat Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) A request has been received from the Government of Gujarat for reduction in import duty on pig iron. According to the latest calculation furnished by M/s. Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation Ltd., the cost of imported pig iron is Rs. 3750 per tonne as against about Rs. 3000 per tonne for indigenous pig iron.

(b) M|s. Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation Ltd. have been allowed to import 23000 tonnes of pig iron through M/s. M. M. T. C. the canalising agency. Till the 8th December, 1985; only pig iron having phosphorus content not exceeding 0.1 per cent was eligible for the concesional duty of 40 per cent advalorem plus Rs. 80 per tonne.

(c) With effect from 9th December, the import duty on pig iron of all grades has been fixed at 55 per cent advalorem plus Rs.80 per tonne. A copy of the notification issue in this respect has already been laid on the Table of the House.

M/s. Parle Exports Pvt. Ltd./Bisleri India Pvt. Ltd.

2273. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. Parle Exports Private Limited are regularly violating the provisions of the FERA;

(b) if so, what penal action has been taken by Government against these firms;

(c) whether Government are aware that some Central Government officers in connivance with the above firms are delaying the cases against these firms; and

(d) if so what action Government are contemplating to prosecute the Directors of the firms to prevent recurrence of such type of offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) and (b) On the basis of documents seized as a result of searches conducted in November, 1977 and further investigations made a case against M/s. Bisleri India Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and its two Directors, namely, S/Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan and H.M. Golwala was adjudicated by the Enforcement Directorate (FERA) on 25-9-1978, imposing penalties of Rs. 1,50,000 on the company and Rs. 15,000 each on the two directors.

On a complaint from Enforcement Directorate the C.B.I. registered a case against M/s. Bisleri India Pvt. Ltd. and its two directors, for offences under IPC and FERA, on 5-4-1980 and subsequently searched the premises of M/s. Bisleri India Pvt. Ltd. and some other